

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-1285V

Filed: November 1, 2018

UNPUBLISHED

RALPH PUTNAM,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

Brittany S. Cates, Faxon Law Group, New Haven, CT, for petitioner.

Claudia Barnes Gangi, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On September 18, 2017, petitioner filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) caused in fact by the trivalent influenza vaccination he received on October 22, 2015. Petition at 1, ¶¶ 1, 12. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On August 21, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On November 1, 2018, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$165,680.00, representing \$150,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$15,680.00 for past out-of-pocket

¹ The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

medical expenses. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer. *Id.*

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$165,680.00, representing \$150,000.00 pain and suffering and \$15,680.00 for past unreimbursable expenses in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Ralph Putnam.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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RALPH PUTNAM,

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
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Respondent.

No. 17-1285V
Chief Special Master Dorsey
ECF

RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

I. Items of Compensation

On August 20, 2018, respondent conceded that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act. On August 21, 2018, Chief Special Master Dorsey issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for his Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”). Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$165,680.00. The award is comprised of the following: \$150,000.00 for pain and suffering; and \$15,680.00 for past out-of-pocket medical expenses. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through

a lump sum payment of **\$165,680.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.¹ Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 1, 2018

¹ Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future pain and suffering.